

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (withdrawn): A method for measuring lipoarabinomannan in a lipoarabinomannan-containing sample, which comprises allowing a Limulus reagent to contact with the sample.

2. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises heating the lipoarabinomannan-containing sample before the contact with the Limulus reagent.

3. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 2, wherein the Limulus reagent is an endotoxin-specific Limulus reagent.

4. (withdrawn): A method for detecting an acid-fast bacterium, which comprises using the method of claim 1.

5. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 4, wherein the acid-fast bacterium is a tubercle bacillus.

6. (withdrawn): A kit for measuring lipoarabinomannan, which comprises a Limulus reagent as a component.

7. (withdrawn): The kit according to claim 6, wherein the Limulus reagent is an endotoxin-specific Limulus reagent.

8. (withdrawn): A kit for detecting an acid-fast bacterium, which comprises the kit of claim 6.

9. (withdrawn): The kit according to claim 8, wherein the acid-fast bacterium is a tubercle bacillus.

10. (currently amended): A method for removing reactivity of lipoarabinomannan in a lipoarabinomannan-containing sample ~~with~~ to a Limulus reagent, which comprises allowing one or more substance(s) selected from the following group to coexist with the sample:

a surfactant, an anti-tuberculosis antibody, an anti-lipoarabinomannan antibody, a (1→3)-β-glucan, a carboxymethylated (1→3)-β-glucan, a factor G activation inhibitor, a strong alkaline substance, polymyxin B, colistin, concanavalin A, histidine and histamine.

11. (currently amended): A method for measuring an endotoxin ~~using a Limulus reagent~~ in a lipoarabinomannan-containing sample, which comprises removing reactivity of lipoarabinomannan ~~with~~ to a Limulus reagent by the method of claim 10, contacting said sample with a Limulus reagent, and detecting or measuring the Limulus reaction induced by said endotoxin.

12. (original): The method according to claim 11, wherein the Limulus reagent is an endotoxin-specific Limulus reagent.

13. (currently amended): A method for detecting an endotoxin-related disease, which comprises using detecting or measuring an endotoxin in a lipoarabinomannan-containing sample according to the method of claim 11.

14. (withdrawn): A kit for measuring an endotoxin, which comprises a Limulus reagent and one or more substance(s) selected from the following group as components:

a surfactant, an anti-tuberculosis antibody, an anti-lipoarabinomannan antibody, a (1→3)-β-glucan, a carboxymethylated (1→3)-β-glucan, a factor G activation inhibitor and a strong alkaline substance.

15. (withdrawn): The kit according to claim 14, wherein the Limulus reagent is an endotoxin-specific Limulus reagent.

16. (withdrawn): A kit for detecting an endotoxin-related disease, which comprises the kit of claim 14.

17. (withdrawn): A method for measuring a (1→3)-β-glucan using a Limulus reagent in a lipoarabinomannan-containing sample, which comprises removing reactivity of lipoarabinomannan with a Limulus reagent by the method of claim 10.

18. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 17, wherein the Limulus reagent is a (1→3)-β-glucan-specific Limulus reagent.

19. (withdrawn): A method for detecting mycosis, which comprises using the method of claim 17.

20. (withdrawn): A kit for measuring a (1→3)-β-glucan, which comprises a Limulus reagent and one or more substance(s) selected from the following group as components:

a surfactant, an anti-tuberculosis antibody, an anti-lipoarabinomannan antibody, a strong alkaline substance, polymyxin B, colistin, concanavalin histidine and histamine.

21. (withdrawn): The kit according to claim 20, wherein the Limulus reagent is a (1→3)-β-glucan-specific Limulus reagent.

22. (withdrawn): A kit for detecting mycosis, which comprises the kit of claim 20.

23. (withdrawn): An agent for binding of lipoarabinomannan, which comprises one or more substance(s) selected from the following group as an active ingredient:

an anti-tuberculosis antibody, an anti-lipoarabinomannan antibody, (1→3)-β-glucan, a carboxymethylated (1→3)-β-glucan, a factor G activation inhibitor, polymyxin B, colistin, concanavalin A, histidine and histamine.